

Serial No. 10/655,787

706327US1

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-11, and 13-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 were amended to further clarify Applicants' invention. Claims 3 and 13 were amended to depend from claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claims 1-2 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lafferty, US Patent No. 4,873,480 ('480 patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

The '480 patent discloses a system for improving the conversion efficiency of a photovoltaic power supply to a load resistance by varying the impedance of a coupling circuit between the photovoltaic power supply and the load resistance to match an impedance value required for maximum output power. Thus, the varying of the impedance results in an adjustment of the load accordingly. Applicants' invention, on the other hand, as recited in amended independent claim 1 optimizes converter power generation efficiency by controlling the current in the source circuit, i.e., the energy converter, to either allow current to conduct to the load or to inhibit current flow. Applicants, thus, respectfully request allowance of amended independent claims 1 and 12, which are not disclosed or anticipated by the '480 patent.

With respect to dependent claims 3-10 and 13-17, without conceding the Examiner's position, Applicants contend these claims are allowable as a result of their dependency from claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Claims 3-9 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '480 patent in combination with Flack et al., US Patent No. 5,659,465 ('465 patent). As discussed above, independent claims 1 and 12 are distinguishable over the '480 patent, therefore, claims 3-10 and 13-17 are patentable as well.

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For the reasons indicated above, claims 1, 3-11 and 13-17 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art cited thereagainst. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be beneficial, please contact the undersigned at the number listed.

Respectfully submitted,

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